## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00162 180631Z ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 W

-----038892 180854Z /14

R 180610Z JAN 78 FM USLO PEKING TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9674 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJ: PRC WHEAT PURCHASES

1. EMBASSY REPS OF CANADA, ARGENTINA AND AUSTRALIA HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT SHIPPED BY EACH COUNTRY TO THE PRC IN CALENDAR YEAR 1977 WERE: CANADA 3.8 MILLION TONS, ARGENTINA 820,000 TO 850,000 TONS, AND AUSTRALIA 3.0 MILLION TONS. THUS, APPROXIMATELY 4.0 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT REMAIN TO BE SHIPPED FROM PURCHASES MADE IN 1977.

2. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WHEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES STATIONED HERE IS THAT THE PRC WILL PURCHASE A MINIMUM OF 3.0 MILLION TONS OF ADDITIONAL WHEAT FOR DELIVERY IN 1978. TOTAL WHEAT IMPORTS IN 1978 ARE EXPECTED TO EXCEED SEVEN MILLION TONS AND COULD REACH TEN, EXPECIALLY IF PRC CROPS APPEAR UNFAVORABLE IN THE SPRING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUMMER.

3. WHILE PORT FACILITIES IN CHINA CONTINUE TO BE CONGESTED, IT NOW APPEARS THAT UP TO TEN MILLION TONS OF GRAIN COULD BE UNLOADED AT CHINESE PORTS IN 1978 IF NECESSARY.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT PRC HAS PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA, AUSTRALIA OR ARGENTINA RELATIVE TO FURTHER WHEAT PURCHASES.

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